

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 and 41-47 were pending in the application. Claim 41 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 17, 27, 32, and 47 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-39 and 42-47 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 23, 38, and 41 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of these claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-21, 24-25, 27-37, 42, and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Solomon et al. (USPN 6151659).

Independent claims 1, 17, 27, 32, and 47 have been amended to incorporate the features of objected claim 41. Applicant submits that each of the amended independent claims recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, amended claims 1, 17, 27, 32, and 47 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

Claims 2-16 and 42-46 depend on claim 1, claims 18-26 depend on claim 17, claims 28-31 depend on claim 27, and claims 33-39 depend on claim 32, and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over the cited reference for at least the reasons given above.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 10, 26, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Solomon in view of IBM. Claim 10, claim 26, and claim 39 are dependent upon claim 1, claim 17, and claim 32, respectively, and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over cited references for at least the reasons given in the above paragraph discussing claims 1, 17, and 32.

Claims 6, 13, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Solomon in view of Archibald, Jr. et al. (US Publication Number 20020169995). Claims 6 and 13 and claim 22 are dependent upon claim 1 and claim 17, respectively, and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over cited references for at least the reasons given in the above paragraph discussing claims 1 and 17.

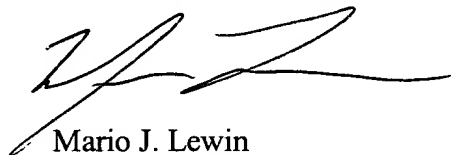
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-77800/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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